

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0112

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 8073

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, FR, FT, SO, US

SUBJECT: MAURITIUS OAU CONFERENCES: ETHIOPIAN PERCEPTIONS

SUMMARY: INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH KEY MEMBERS EPMG
DEL JUST BACK FROM MAURITIUS OAU CONFERENCES, REVEAL
THAT ETHIOPIANS: (A) ARE PLEASED WITH MANNER IN WHICH
CONFERENCES DEALT WITH DJIBOUTI ISSUES; (B) WERE SUR-
PRISED BY DECISION TO KEEP OAU A/SEC GEN'S ON; (C)
CONSIDER THAT MOBUTU HAS REGAINED INFLUENCE ON AFRICAN
POLITICAL STAG; (D) BELIEVE MOROCCANS OUTPLAYED BY
ALGERIANS ON WESTERN SAHARA. END SUMMARY.

1. AMB, DCM AND POL COUNSELOR HAD OCCASION FOR INFORMAL
CONVERSATIONS WITH FONMIN KIFLE WODAJO AND MOFA'S
AFRICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR BERHANU DINKA ON SUBJECT CON-
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FERENCES, EVENING JULY 6. THERE FOLLOWS GISTING OF

ETHIOPIAN INTERLOCUTOR'S MOST SALIENT REMARKS:

A. TFAI- ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION PRONOUNCED ITSELF SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF OAU CM AND SUMMIT INSOFAR AS DJIBOUTI IS CONCERNED. SOMALIA HAD BEEN UNABLE TO REGISTER THEIR RESERVATIONS ON RESOLUTION APPROVED BY SUMMIT CALLING UPON ALL PARTIES TO GUARANTEE FUTURE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF DJIBOUTI. ACCORDING DINKA, SOMALIA HAD WANTED TO PUT THEIR VIEWS INTO THE RECORD AT CLOSING SESSION OF CONFERENCE. WHEN CRUCIAL MOMENT CAME, CHAIR DECLINED TO RECOGNIZE SOMALI SPEAKER AND CONFERENCE THUS ADJOURNED WITHOUT GSDR RECLAMAS ON THE RECORD. AUGUST ACCRA SESSION HAD BEEN AGREED BY ALL DJIBOUTI FACTIONS AS WELL AS THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. DINKA SAID HE THOUGHT CHANCES REASONABLY GOOD THAT THEY PREPARED SIT DOWN WITH EACH OTHER ALTHOUGH QUESTION OF ANY SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT TO BE REACHED AT ACCRA REMAINED OPEN. DINKA LEFT IMPRESSION HE FELT THAT DJIBOUTI SITUATION EVOLVING SO AS TO IMPROVE CHANCES FOR A SUCCESSFUL DECOLONIZATION OF THE TERRITORY. DINKA ALSO NOTED THAT EPMG HAD SUPPORT OF LARGE MAJORITY OF AF'S ON TFAI, ONLY A HANDFUL TAKING SOMALI LINE.

B. OAU SECRETARIAT- THERE HAD BEEN STRONG EXPECTATION THAT OAU A/SECGENS WOULD BE CHANGED AT MAURITIUS. ACCORDINGLY, SURPRISE WIDESPREAD WHEN SIX (UNSPECIFIED) FONMINS ASSURED SUMMIT THAT DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN AT EARLIER SESSION MAKING TENURE A;3) 3:&3, :9-TERMINOUS WITH THAT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY GENERAL. SOMEHOW, TAPES OF SESSION AT WHICH THIS DECISION ALLEGEDLY TAKEN WERE UNAVAILABLE IN MAURITIUS AND CHAIR, DINKA SAID, SAW NO GROUNDS UPON WHICH TO CHALLENGE FONMINS' ASSERTION. SUMMIT THEREUPON DECIDED TO DEFER ANY CHANGES /IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS EARLIER DECISION." COMMENT: DEP WILL RECALL (ADDIS ABABA 7420) THAT SEVERAL OAU A/SECGENS EXPECTED CHANGES TO BE MADE AT THEIR LEVEL IN THE OAU SECRETARIAT BY THE MAURITIUS SUMMIT. END COMMENT.

C. MOBUTU- DINKA SAID THAT MUBUTU APPEARED TO
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HAVE FULLY REGAINED I SLUENCE HE HAD LOST SINCE EXTRAORDINARY (ANGOLA) ADDIS OAU SUMMIT. IN FACT, DINKA SUGGESTED THAT MOBUTU EMERGED WITH ENHANCED STATURE FROM MAURITIUS MEETINGS.

D. SUDAN- FONMIN KIFLE TORAAUS THAT PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAD CONFINED HIMSELF AT MAURITIUS TO A GENERAL BRIEFING OF EVENTS IN KHARTOUM. HE HAD UNEQUIVOCALLY

ACCUSED LIBYA OF FOMENTING THE ATTEMPT TVCOVERTHROW HIS
GOVERNMENT BUT HAD DECLINED TO POLEMICISE. FONMIN
KIFLE THEN SAID "YOU KNOW THERE WERE ALSO SOME
ETHIOPIANS INVOLVED IN THIS AFFAIR." HE DID NOT
ELABORATE BUT INDICATED, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION,
THAT ETHIOPIANS TO WHOM HE HAD REFERRED WERE NOT RPT
NOT THE ANSAR REFUGEES WHO CAME TO ETHIOPIA SEVERAL
YEARS AGO.

E. WESTERN SAHARA- FONMI KIFLE OPINED THAT
MOROCCANS HAVE LOST POINTS TO ALGERIANS AT LEAST
DAR-ES-SALAAM AFRICAN LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETING
WHEN MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR FUMBLED THE BALL. ALGERIANS
HAD SUCCESSFULLY REOPENED THE QUESTION IN MAURITIUS
AND MOROCCANS HAD BEEN UNABLE TO MOBILIZE ANY SIGNIFI-
CANT SUPPORT FOR THEIR THESES ON WESTERN SAHARA.

COMMENT: ETHIOPIAN MEDIA HAVE TAKEN A PRO-ALGERIAN
LINE ON WESTERN SAHARA EVER SINCE THIS PROBLEM BEGAN
TO EMERGE ON THE AFRICAN POLITICAL SCENE. THIS HAS
CONTINUED DESPITE THE FACT THAT MOFA TECHNICIANS SEE
ETHIOPIA'S NATIONAL INTERESTS BEST SERVED BY SUPPORT
FOR MOROCCO. CLEARLY, THE DIRG HAS OVERRULED THE
FONOFF IN THE CASE--PRESUMABLY IN THE NAME OF THE
SOLIDARITY OF AFRICAN "PROGRESSIVES." END COMMENT.
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